

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1778

S E C R E T CAIRO 4618

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR LE US SY XF

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION

1. NO FURTHER MESSAGE FROM SADAT OR FAHMY
YET RECEIVED. TODAY, HOWEVER, I MET WITH MINSTATE
MOHAMED RIAD ON SOME OTHER MATTERS. HE SAID VP
MUBAREK HAD BRIEFED HIM ABOUT OUR SEVERAL MEETINGS
AND THE MESSAGES TO SADAT AND FAHMY. I TOLD HIM
I HAD INDEED MET WITH THE VP FOR THIS PURPOSE AND
RECALLED FAHMY HAD ASKED THAT THIS PROCEDURE BE
FOLLOWED BECAUSE MUBAREK HAS THE PRESIDENTIAL
CIPHER. I BRIEFED RIAD GENERALLY ON THE NATURE OF
OUR MESSAGES.

2. RIAD THEN RAISED THE MATTER OF DEAN BROWN'S MISSION.
HAD WE TOLD THE SYRIANS ABOUT THE MISSION SOME TIME
IN ADVANCE? I RECALLED THAT WE HAD TRIED TO TELL
ALL OF OUR ARAB FRIENDS ABOUT THE DESIGNATION SHORTLY
BEFORE THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE (STATE 76331).
UNFORTUNATELY, BECUASE OF A DELAY IN THE INCOMING
MESSAGE WE COULD NOT INFORM GOE UNTIL THE FOLLOWING
MORNING BY WHICH TIME THE ANNOUNCEMENT HAD ALREADY
BEEN MADE (CAIRO 4239).

3. WHILE RIAD DID NOT APPEAR TO BE UPSET, HE INSISTED

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THAT ASAD MUST HAVE HAD WORD OF THE INTENDED BROWN

MISSION BEFORE OTHERS DID. WHEN ASAD MET WITH JUMBLATT AND SUBSEQUENTLY WITH ARAFAT, THE SYRIAN PRESIDENT HAD LET IT BE KNOWN TO BOTH OF THEM THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THE PROPOSED BROWN MISSION WELL BEFORE THE ANNOUNCEMENT. THE WAY THE EGYPIANS GOT IT FROM JUMBLATT AND ARAFAT IS THAT THE BROWN MISSION HAD BEEN ARRANGED IN CONSULTATION WITH ASAD AND IN SUPPORT OF SYRIAN EFFORTS. I TOLD RIAD THAT I COULD NOT SAY EXACTLY WHEN ASAD HAD BEEN INFORMED, BUT THE STORY HE ALLEGEDLY GAVE JUMBLATT AND ARAFAT ABOUT KNOWING LONG IN ADVANCE SOUNDED A BIT FISHY. I HAD NO REASON TO BELIEVE HE HAD BEEN TREATED DIFFERENTLY FROM THE OTHER ARAB STATES. AS RIAD DOUBTLESS KNEW, ONE OF THE MAIN PURPOSES IN SENDING BROWN WAS TO LESSEN PRESSURE FOR SYRIAN MILITARY INTERVENTION. THIS HAS BEEN THE ENTIRE THRUST OF OUR EFFORTS IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS.

4. RIAD DID NOT PURSUE THE POINT OF ADVANCE CONSULTATION WITH ASAD. HE DID COMMENT, HOWEVER, THAT ASAD HAS DEPLOYED ADDITIONAL SYRIAN TROOPS INTO LEBANON IN THE PAST FEW DAYS. GARBED IN SAIQA UNIFORMS THEY HAVE TAKEN OVER SIDON REFINERY, BEIRUT AIRPORT APPROACHES AND OTHER LOCATIONS. HE DID NOT APPEAR PARTICULARLY DISTURBED. WE MUST ASSUME THAT SADAT AND FAHMY WILL ALSO HAVE RECEIVED THE JUMBLATT/ARAFAT REPORT (S) OF WHAT ASAD ALLEGEDLY TOLD THEM OF THE BROWN MISSION. HOPEFULLY, OUR DIALOGUE OF THE LAST FEW DAYS WILL ALLAY MOST OF THEIR CONCERNS, BUT WE MUST RECKON WITH SOME EGYPTIAN SUSPICIONS AGAIN BEING AROUSED. WHEN IT COMES TO SYRIA THESE DAYS, THE EGYPTANS SEE RED.

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